

POOLS' ON FLOORS' CHANCES.

Fickle Nannie Petticoat Sets the Whole Town By the Ears.

SHE WON HIM WITH A CORPSE.

A San Francisco Girl's Unique Device—Whispered in the Bridgroom's Ear—Widower Against Bachelor—Cats Her Only Companions.

Little Romances.

The village of Winchester, W. Va., has been very much stirred up over the announcement of the marriage of Miss Nannie Petticoat, an heiress. During a visit to Missouri last summer she won the affections of G. A. Goodman, of Hamilton. After her return home she kept up a correspondence with him, and their affection for each other soon grew into love and from love into an engagement. Invitations for their marriage in Winchester were issued, and one of them was sent to Thomas Jackson, of Clark county, who was also one of Miss Petticoat's suitors. On receiving the announcement he at once sought an interview with Miss Petticoat, and between sobs and tears, told her he loved her, and that her marriage to another would kill him. This softened her heart, and she then and there consented to cancel the engagement with the Missouri girl. She wrote him that she had changed her mind and that she loved another. Goodman, on receiving the notice, took the first train, arriving at Winchester more than a week ago. He, too, sought an interview with Miss Petticoat, and she promised to be his partner. Thinking he had everything his own way, Goodman went to his hotel, but Jackson called and made another affecting appeal, and her mind was again changed. This was kept up for a week, first one and then the other being the victor. Pools were sold on the result, and nothing else was talked of in Winchester. One Sunday evening Goodman had an engagement to sail, and, getting tired of the delay, he told the woman, concluded to take with him a minister and a license and settle the matter beyond recall. Imagining she would find that Jackson had called half an hour before, armed with a license and minister, and when Goodman arrived he found that Jackson had won the prize.

The body of a young woman was found floating in the rippling water of the bay off the battery at San Francisco the other day. The face was handsome and refined looking. A wealth of golden brown hair fell in ringlets below her waist. The clothing on the body was good and of fine quality. Small high-heeled slippers of French gold kid and silk stockings covered the extremities, and on the small, well-shaped hands was a pair of black kid gloves. The body was taken to the morgue, and while there hundreds of men and women gazed at it with interest. It was identified. The story was printed in the Evening World and attracted widespread attention. Among the many who read it was Laura, a young woman who was living with a friend named Linda Garis in a quiet boarding house on East Twenty-third street. Laura was young and handsome, but while Miss Garis was usually bright and vivacious, Miss Wilder seemed sad and despondent, as if she had been through some great sorrow. Gradually her story became known through the medium of Miss Garis.

She had been engaged to be married to a young man named Easton, P. named Fred Bowman. He was of a very jealous disposition. She was very high tempered, and when he met her on the street in Easton one night talking to a male acquaintance, he accused her of being false to him and spoke words that should never have been said. She replied spiritedly, and he went away, saying she would never see him again. He disappeared, and after waiting a few days for him to return, she came to her father, Miss Garis, a friend of her childhood, and who was to have been her bridesmaid, accompanied her. Miss Wilder was on the verge of desperation when she heard of the finding of the unknown woman's body in the water, and her first thought was: "Why should I not go and see the body? It is a poor creature has done." But, upon reflection, another and brighter idea came to her mind and she determined to act upon it. After consulting with Miss Garis, Miss Wilder went to the morgue and asked Keeper Fogarty to show her the body. He did so, and there she saw the body of the woman who had been her fiancée, as being the body of Laura Wilder, of South Easton, Pa.

Questioned by Fogarty, she gave her name as Linda Garis, a friend of Laura's, and then went on to tell of "poor Laura's" heavy heart since Fred Bowman deserted her. She refused to give her address, but when going away promised to return next day with Laura's parents, whom she said she would telegraph for. She returned to her boarding house, and then, when she was alone, she saw how their race would result. It worked to perfection. Every newspaper published the fact that the body of the woman who had been Laura Wilder, and the news was telegraphed far and wide. Fred Bowman saw it in a paper in a western train and then, when he realized what his foolish jealousy had caused him, he immediately telegraphed money to Warden O'Rourke, of Bellevue, to bury the girl, and came in post-haste to attend the funeral and take, as he thought, one last look at the face of the girl he loved so well. On his arrival at the funeral, he was most agreeably surprised to find, upon looking at the body, that it was not that of Miss Wilder. He had thought her lover did who could have identified her as such, and for what reason. He had not gone many steps when he heard a sweet voice say softly: "Fred!"

He turned about, and there before him stood Laura. "My Laura," he murmured fondly, and there they embraced, careless of everyone. She had been on the watch for him every day since she had made the false identification, and as she had thought her lover did come to see if she had really passed from his life forever. They went to Laura's boarding house and a quiet marriage followed.

Mr. Bowman's money buried the dead woman's body. She was interred in Evergreen cemetery, and perhaps some day her story may be made known.

J. E. Hutchinson, a popular Mobile and Ohio railroad freight conductor, of Jackson, Tenn., was engaged to marry Miss Bettie McDaniel, of Dyer, Tenn., and went up to consummate the vows. A friend advised him not to marry the girl, but he insisted that he would do the deed when the friend spoke to him again and he left the house, declaring he would not marry. The bride's friends followed him to the depot, threatening trouble if he did not return. The train pulled in about that time, and he boarded it and went to Humboldt. He telegraphed Trainmaster McKivitts to tell him he was going to Mexico. The affair has caused a sensation. Mr. McDaniel, who belongs to a respectable family, is almost heartbroken. It is said that the statements which caused the trouble were of a serious nature.

One of the most sensational marriages took place not far from Villa Rica, the other morning that has ever happened in that part of Georgia. Not far out from town a farmer resides who had a daughter possessing more than ordinary beauty and accomplishments, whose heart, two seasons ago, was broken. It became evident to each of the gentlemen that she had only one heart and that she would marry one of them soon. For a week, Madame Rumor was the talk of the town, and she was so sure of her ground that she was not to be trifled with. One of these gentlemen was a young widower and the other a handsome young fellow of about twenty-three summers. It is said the old folks were rather inclined to the young widower, and the young lady preferred the young man, and so the fight went bravely on until the community for a mile or two around took sides with the boys. One day widower stock would be way up yonder, and perhaps in less than a day the young man stock would run up.

same any time inviting them in. When he reached the farm the bird had flown and was caged.

Now comes Sunday, the great day of the struggle. The young widower was on hand. The prize was brought out and she was informed that he was now ready. She begged time. He told her, "No; now or never," so far as he was concerned.

The preacher asked them if they were likely to "reach a verdict." Her reply was "More or less." He told them that he would be compelled to be traveling to reach his appointment. But as has been stated, the young widower remained on his knees and kept pleading. Finally she yielded and a courier was dispatched for the preacher, who was overtaken some distance away, thinking over what his text should be in such trying circumstances. He was hurried back and the young widower captured the prize. In a moment the news flashed over the settlement and the excitement reached fever heat. At one time there seemed to be trouble brewing among the friends of the settlement and the excitement reached the following marriage notice is printed:

Married—At the residence of the bride's father, Mr. Nathan V. Stalling, Mr. J. E. Connor to Miss Edith Stalling, the Rev. J. T. Browning performing the ceremony.

A hermit has just been discovered living on the banks of the Raritan river only a few miles from New Brunswick. The hermit is a woman over eighty years old and lives alone in a small hut in a secluded mansion in the woods. She is reported to be very wealthy, and although most of the rooms in the house are never used, she is a woman of great refinement and is reported to be a very good cook. She is reported to be a very good cook. She is reported to be a very good cook.

A sensational case was tried in Justice Patrick's court, in Tacoma, the other night, two Italian, Martin Petrecek and Santos Cordova, principals. Cordova is a dark-eyed Italian, a few years old, and he is reported to be a very good cook. He is reported to be a very good cook. He is reported to be a very good cook.

Crampl, one of De Bruza's assistants in the French Congo territory, has just surprised all his friends by bringing to France a young black woman who was presented to him as a wife during his recent expedition to the Congo river. She is a young savage of rather pleasing features and graceful form and carries on her head a decided queer in dress and regards with open-mouthed astonishment about everything she sees. When Mr. Crampl married a native of Africa a while ago his choice was a coast girl who had been nurtured for years at a mission station, and who was a native of a Christian young person. But the dusky flower that Crampl has brought home with him was plucked from the depths of savage Africa. Neither she nor any of her people had ever seen a white man before.

Crampl started eleven months ago with a party of explorers to the Congo river, and the unknown region northeast of the Ogowe. After weeks of traveling he reached a great forest region directly east of the district explored by his predecessor, and he found that he had never been before. This is the country of the M'fams, whose language differed so much from that of the M'fams that he was unable to communicate with the natives. The M'fams, however, gave Crampl a hospitable reception, and he spent several weeks with them. When he was about to go away one of the chiefs came to him leading a very dark and anxious-looking native of the tribe. He told the white man that he liked him, and as a mark of his esteem he wished to present him with one of his own daughters. He said she was the daughter of a chief, and must not be made a slave, but if the white man would take her for his wife he might have her. Offers of this sort are often made to African explorers, and they usually decline with thanks the delicate proposal. Crampl, however, said he would take the girl as his wife, and that young person, nothing loth, set out with the explorer for the sea, and has probably bid a last farewell to her native land.

Crampl's choice is approved by his relations, but he seems to be satisfied, and of course he will take the girl back to Africa with him when he returns. Among the interesting discoveries made by Crampl is that of a large dwarf tribe, who are doubtless identical with the O'Boongo dwarf discovered by Du Chailu.

A pretty story, pretty enough to be true, is told of Prince Louis who recently wedded the Earl of Fife. It seems this shy royal maiden had been "stuck on" the earl for years, in fact, even before she came out, but she had never told her love, nor did the earl tell his until a kind courtship, busybody, guessing the secret, went to papa with it. He was rather reticent, but he always bought a birthday present for the man she loved, but as she never dared give it to him the little gift was laid away in a drawer and carried to the altar. There is something exceedingly touching in this fit of girlish sentiment, and, with it in mind, no wonder the Prince of Wales

spoke of his daughter's engagement as one of pure affection. A girl like this will make a tender, loving wife.

A Modern Martin's Martyrdom.

A certain Coman, says a writer in the Atlanta Constitution, had a large family and little means, but, being possessed of untiring energy and great ambition, she managed to make her means go far. She toiled early and late that her house might be spotlessly clean, her children well dressed and her table spread with good things. But it came to pass at length she noticed she was growing blind. She could work as well as ever, but she often heard friends speak of seeing things which she could not see at all, and many things which had been brought to her began now to grow dim. And her husband, when he asked her to walk with him into untried paths, noticed that she often stumbled and seemed not to see her way. And he said that she was going blind, and he said that she was going blind, and he said that she was going blind.

But she answered him indignantly: "What, take time from my household and my children for so selfish a purpose? Never! I will do my duty, and if I am blind—I am blind." And her sorrowed much, and redoubled his efforts to make her sight. But as her means increased so did her ambition, and her pride. Her household duties were done with her own hands. But her blindness increased, and in the untried paths her husband walked alone.

And her children grew. And by and by came one of them to her and said: "Mother, the way before my feet is dark. I cannot see. Come thou with me and show me to the light." And in sorrow the mother answered, "I cannot come, my child, for I am blind." And another came and said: "Mother, behold for me a new heaven and a new earth; for the things of my childhood seem to have passed away, and in their stead are all things new—filled with wonders to be explained, and marvelous things that I would understand. Come, teach me how I may learn of them."

And with deepened sadness the mother answered him, "I cannot come, my child, for I am blind." Then the third came and said: "Mother, see! a great mountain is here. I long for the wonderful view I could gain from its summit. Lead me, I beseech you, to the top, lest I fail to find the way." And him she answered as she had answered the others.

So her children went from her, and behold, soon there came to her between her and them a distance which she could not bridge only by their love and hers. But save in the flashes of sight which came to her at times, she knew it not for she was blind.

And another woman had also small means and a large family. She, too, toiled early and late that they might be well fed and clothed. But when to her came the knowledge came to her that she was threatened with blindness, she said:

"This thing shall not be. For my husband's sake, and for my children's sake, I must save my sight."

So she set apart each day some time when she could care for her eyes, and do those things necessary to prevent blindness. And with this care her eyes grew strong and her sight clear, and it was so that when she looked down at her husband in an untried path, it was as if he were her guide and helped him on. But it happened by this means her table was not filled with dainties, but only with plain substantial food and her children went often day after day in clean gingham gowns.

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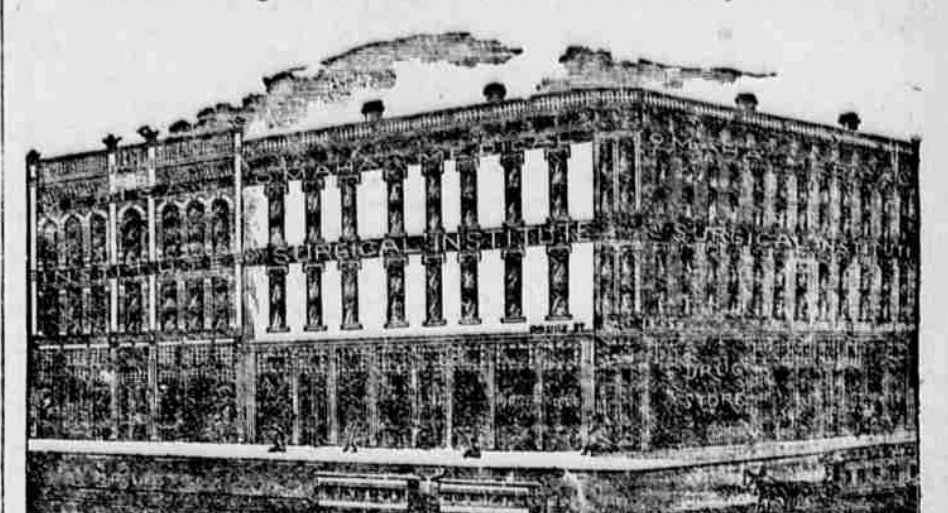
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